

In re Application of: Elan ZIV
Serial No.: 10/598,872
Filed: May 18, 2007
Office Action Mailing Date: February 14, 2011

Examiner: Catherine E. BURK
Group Art Unit: 3735
Attorney Docket: **34061**
Confirmation No.: 1651

What is claimed:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus arranged around a central axis for treating urinary incontinence, said apparatus being sized and shaped for human intra-vaginal insertion, comprising:
 - a node rotationally symmetrically located around the central axis thereof, said central axis being along a long axis of said apparatus and said apparatus configured so that said long axis lies along a vagina when inserted therein;
 - a support section adapted for providing urethral support attached to said node; and
 - an anchoring section adapted for resisting movement of said apparatus attached to said node, when in said vagina; wherein said node is no longer than 30% of the entire length of said apparatus comprising said node, support section and said anchoring section together.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein said node is no longer than 20% of the entire length of said apparatus for treating urinary incontinence.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 2 wherein said node is no longer than 15% of the entire length of said apparatus for treating urinary incontinence.
4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support section is provided with at least 2 supporting arms.
5. (Previously presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein said anchoring section is provided with at least 2 anchoring arms.

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6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a separate cover.
7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 6, wherein said cover substantially encapsulates said node, support section and said anchoring section.
8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least said support section and said anchoring section are flexible.
9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least said node is flexible.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a device displacer.
11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 10 wherein said device displacer is attached to said support section.
12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 4 further comprising support struts interlinking said supporting arms.
13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an applicator adapted to insert said apparatus into a vagina.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein the length of the apparatus in a relaxed state is 50mm or less.

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16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said support section is adapted for providing urethral support using a plurality of outwardly extending arms, and comprising

an extending insert adapted to increase the diameter of said support section by outwardly urging the arms.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a separate cover configured to provide urethral support, thereby applying force on said urethra only during an increase in intra-abdominal pressure.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 18 wherein said cover substantially encapsulates said support section and said extending insert.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a device displacer.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 20 wherein said device displacer is attached to said support section.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an applicator adapted to insert said apparatus into a vagina.

23. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said support section comprises a plurality of arms adapted for rendering urethral support for treating incontinence when inserted in a vagina, and comprising

an arm collapser; and

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a device displacer coupled to the arm collapser which when pulled causes: a) the arms to collapse; and b) the apparatus to displace.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said device displacer is a string.

25. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said apparatus is flexible and distorted by said string.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of using an apparatus for the treatment of urinary incontinence, comprising:

providing an apparatus arranged around a longitudinal central axis for treating urinary incontinence, said apparatus being sized and shaped for human intra-vaginal insertion, comprising:

a node rotationally symmetrically located around the central axis;

a support section adapted for providing urethral support attached to said node;

and

an anchoring section adapted for resisting movement of said apparatus attached to said node, when in said vagina;

wherein said node is no longer than 30% of the entire length of said apparatus comprising said node, support section and said anchoring section together;

inserting said incontinence treating apparatus so that said axis lies along a vagina; and

deploying said incontinence treating apparatus in a position to render mid-urethral support.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein inserting is facilitated by an applicator.

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28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 further comprising removing said apparatus.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28 wherein said removing is facilitated by a device displacer.

30. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for inserting an expanding and anchoring vaginal device having a preferred deployment location, comprising:

an enclosure for containing an intra-vaginal device according to claim 1; and
a stopper, wherein said stopper prevents over insertion and wherein said stopper is adjustably positioned on an exterior of said enclosure.

31. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 30 further comprising a plurality of selectable positions located on said apparatus such that, upon adjustably positioning said stopper in one of said positions, insertion of said apparatus into said vagina up to said stopper will result in the apparatus being in an appropriate position within said vagina for deployment.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 4, wherein said arms are configured to lie on either side of a urethra.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 4, wherein said support section is provided with at least 4 supporting arms.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support section defines at least one channel allowing flow of vaginal secretions past said apparatus.

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35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said length of said apparatus and said support section and anchoring section are configured to provide mid-urethral support to a urethra.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said support section has a first maximal diameter and said node has a second maximal diameter and said anchor section has a third maximal diameter and wherein the first maximal diameter and the third maximal diameters are greater than the second maximal diameter.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein deploying comprises not applying enough pressure to said vagina to cause discomfort or to block said urethra absent an increase in intra-abdominal pressure.

38. (New) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein configured so that when deployed, said anchoring section said node and said support section are arranged in a line in said order along said axis.

39. (New) An apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is rotationally symmetric around said central axis..